

Brooklyn Bridge shooting victim dies

NEW YORK (R) — An orthodox Jewish student shot along with three fellow students on the Brooklyn bridge died of his injuries Saturday, a spokesman for the Lubavitch movement said. Aaron Halberstam, 16, died around 9:50 p.m. (0250 GMT) at St. Vincent's Hospital, said an aide to Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, a spokesman for the religious group. "Ari is a martyr who died because he was a Jew," the group said in a statement released early Sunday. The side said Halberstam's family was with him when he died and that his funeral was to be held Sunday in Brooklyn. Halberstam had been declared brain dead by doctors Wednesday, a day after the deadly attack on the four students as they travelled onto the New York landmark. Rashad Baz, a 28-year-old Beirut-born taxi driver, was charged in Tuesday morning's shooting. Two men — Bassam Reyati, 27, owner of the Brooklyn taxi service that employs Baz, and Halil Mohammad, 32, who runs a repair shop where Baz allegedly drove his car after the shooting — are also under arrest. They were charged with hindering prosecution and weapons possession.

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Israel offers payments to settlers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has agreed to compensate Jewish settler families asking to move out of the occupied territories, an official said Sunday. Rental subsidies of \$600 to \$800 shekels (\$200-\$250) a month were approved for five families leaving the Ariel and Kiryat Arba settlements in the West Bank, the official said. Hundreds of the estimated 120,000 settlers living in the occupied territories have reportedly sought to be evacuated. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also acknowledged to parliament's defence committee a month ago that he had received hundreds of letters from settlers seeking to leave the Gaza Strip, where several thousand settlers live. But he said the government would not help them.

Iran says it will pay creditors on time

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's central bank, which has been behind on payments to overseas creditors holding letters of credit, will resume on-time payments later this month, the governor of the bank said Sunday. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted Mohammad Hossein Adeli as saying the bank would start issuing new letters of credit starting March 21, the start of the Iranian New Year. He said "all payments regarding the letters would be made on time," IRNA reported. He did not say how the cash-strapped bank would manage to do this. The central bank, whose word was once its bond, has been troubled ever since it started falling behind on payments in mid-1992, when the country eased import regulations and was flooded by consumer goods. Delays on payment of letters of credit have sometimes stretched to 10 months or more.

Marine wounds two Somali youths

MOGADISHU (AP) — A U.S. Marine shot and wounded two Somali youths Sunday who pointed a toy pistol at an Egyptian sentry posted at the capital airport. Later Sunday, two Bangladeshi soldiers and a civilian employee of a U.S.-based construction company were wounded when at least eight armed Somalis ambushed their small convoy in south Mogadishu and stole a company truck, a U.N. official said. Colonel Steve Rausch, the U.S. military spokesman, said the youths were wounded when the Marine fired once from about 300 to 350 metres away with a M-40 sniper rifle. The bullet went through the Somali boy holding the toy weapon and hit a second boy, Col. Rausch said. The boys were about 20 metres from the Egyptian. In the second shooting, U.N. military spokesman Major Christopher Budge said one Bangladeshi was in serious condition with a bullet wound in the back. The other Bangladeshi suffered minor injuries.

Sixth body dug up from British garden

GLOUCESTER, England (R) — British police on Sunday unearthed what they believe is the body of a sixth person at the home of a man already charged with three murders. The suspected human remains were discovered in the western city of Gloucester in the cellar of a three-storey semi-detached house that newspapers have dubbed the "house of horror." Police last week unearthed the corpse of three women in the garden of the house and on Saturday discovered two more sets of remains when they started excavations in the building itself. Frederick West, a 52-year-old builder with some 10 children from two marriages, has been charged with murdering his teenage daughter Heather, who vanished seven years ago aged 16. He has also been accused of killing teenager Shirley Robinson, a lodger at his home who was pregnant when she died, and an unknown woman believed to be in her early 20s.

Israeli calls mount for removing settlers

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Support grew in Israel's cabinet on Sunday for removing Jewish settlers from the heart of Hebron where some 60 Palestinians were massacred 10 days ago.

But even ministers supporting such a move stressed it could not be seen as giving in to Palestinian demands to re-negotiate the Sept. 13 autonomy accord.

Tourism Minister Uzi Bar'am told reporters that seven cabinet members spoke out in favour of removing the few hundred Jews living among 110,000 Arabs in the West Bank city where a settler killed worshippers at a mosque.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said no decision was taken but the issue would "continue to occupy our attention."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said dealing with the settlers now was unnecessary. He said it was most important to implement the peace deal signed in September with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel Radio said two of the cabinet's 16 ministers were against such a proposal. The seven others, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, did not voice an opinion.

The cabinet did vote to order the attorney general to charge with incitement anyone who praises the mosque massacre.

Israel: TV showed settlers rejoicing and dancing when they heard about the massacre.

This has incensed the Palestinians and moderate Israelis alike.

But Mr. Rabin refused to allow a vote on the issue and deferred further discussion until next week, Mr. Bar'am said on Israel Radio.

Economy Minister Shimon Shetreet said Mr. Rabin believes "it would be erroneous" to discuss the settlements with the PLO now rather than in 1996 under the terms of the Sept. 13 accord.

But Mr. Rabin is apparently prepared to speed up implementing Palestinian autonomy if the PLO resumes talks.

Officials here said Egypt was trying to arrange a meeting between Mr. Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, possibly this week, to work out "how to get back to the negotiating process."

Mr. Peres' spokesman, Bahira Burdugo, said the meeting would deal with issues such as the Palestinians' demand for international observers to ensure their protection. Mr. Arafat arrived in Cairo Sunday.

Mr. Rabin opposes dismantling any of the 144 settlements, which have become a crucial factor in the peace equation since the Feb. 25 massacre carried out by a settler.

An Israeli official, who demanded anonymity, said Sunday Israel was willing to allow international observers deployed even before autonomy is implemented, but rejects

(Continued on page 10)

EU official says security for Palestinians is imperative

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The European Union's (EU) foreign affairs commissioner Sunday said it was imperative that the U.N. Security Council assure Palestinians that it was exploring ways to ensure their security in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"I think we all agree, the Arab World, the Europeans, the Americans and the Russians that measures have to be taken to enhance the security of the Palestinian people," said Hans van den Broek, who accompanied Greek Foreign Minister Carlos Papoulias on a five-day tour of the Middle East.

Greece currently chairs the European Union (EU) commission. Syria is the last stop on a swing that included Tunisia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt.

Mr. Van den Broek, of Holland, said he felt it was absolutely necessary that a U.N.

Security Council resolution assure Palestinians the council is "not only showing compassion with grief and sorrow but we indeed are looking for ways and means to further help ensure security."

Mr. Van den Broek said most responsibility for doing this lay with the Israeli government.

Asked whether Europe would support any U.N. action aimed at deploying peacekeepers in the occupied territories, he said the idea was there and the member states might not only support but also participate in such a force.

But any action should be first discussed and then have the support of the parties concerned to ensure its success.

Mr. Van den Broek, winding up a Middle East tour following the killing of about 60 Palestinians by a Jewish settler in Feb. 25, said all Arab and

(Continued on page 5)

Egypt gives Israeli Arabs travel papers for Syria

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt has given a delegation of more than 50 Israeli Arabs a travel document for their unprecedented visit to Syria, the head of the delegation said Sunday.

Abdul Wahab Darawshe, leader of the Arab Democratic Party in the Israeli parliament, was speaking in Cairo after a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

"We thank President (Hosni) Mubarak and the Egyptian government for giving us this document so that we can enter Syrian territory," he said.

Israeli media reports said the Syrians had refused to let the delegation in on their usual Israeli papers. It will be the first time Syria has allowed this group of Israeli Arabs to visit.

Mr. Darawshe said the purpose of the trip was to convey condolences to President Hafez Al Assad on the death of his son Bassel in January. "It has nothing to do with the peace process ... we are not carrying political messages and we are not playing a political role," he added.

The delegation includes

prominent figures in the Israeli Arab community including another member of parliament, local council heads, intellectuals and journalists. They expect to see President Assad on Monday.

Mr. Darawshe restated after meeting president Muhabat's top political adviser, Osama Al Baz, that "there is no relation between the delegation's visit to Syria and the peace process."

He added, "as part of the Arab Nation and the Palestinian people, we found it is our human and national duty to present our condolences to President Assad."

Mr. Darawshe also called upon the Israeli government to respond to Palestinian demands requesting international protection for those living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after the Hebron massacre.

He said he supports resumption of negotiations between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, "but Israel has to respond to just Palestinian conditions in order not to give settlers the

chance to carry other massacres."

Mr. Assad originally turned down Mr. Darawshe's request to visit. After Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, cited the cold shoulder as a sign that Syria was not serious about the stalled two-and-a-half year peace talks, Mr. Assad reversed his decision.

The delegation of 57 politicians, academics, writers, journalists and other prominent Arab Israelis is the first of its kind to openly visit Syria.

Syria refused to allow the Israelis to enter on passports issued by the Jewish state, saying this would imply recognition, so Egypt arranged to supply them with temporary travel documents.

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has accused his southern rivals of conspiring to divide the country and vowed to prevent a split at any price.

Mr. Saleh, a northerner whose feud with his southern deputy Ali Salem Al Beidh over political, economic and administrative reform has thrown the country into turmoil, said unity was a fact of life.

"Unity is a firm reality, a matter of destiny," he said in a televised speech on Saturday night.

"Any thinking of secession is out of the question. It will not happen no matter what the price will be."

Mr. Saleh, who with Mr. Beidh united the north and



Armed Jewish settlers wait for transport at the exit of the Kiryat Arba (AFP photo)

Amman to have limited municipal elections, no say on mayoralty

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Greater Amman will hold its first municipal elections in 40 years once a new law on municipalities goes into effect but Ammanites will only be able to elect two thirds of the municipal council and will have no say on who will hold the mayoralty of their

number of municipal seats that the government can control when they adopted a proposal to amend to that effect article two of the draft laws.

The proposal was made by former Amman Mayor Deputy Abdul Rauf Al Rawabdeh who supported the government's bid to return the key to the capital's mayoralty.

"An Amman mayor is a political front and the achievements of the city reflect on the whole country as much as its setback will hurt the whole nation. An Amman mayor should be appointed by the government to ensure that he is qualified until democracy takes root," Mr. Rawabdeh said.

Deputy Abdul Rauf Majali presented similar views and cited the financial troubles of elected councils in other cities as evidence that appointed councils can do better jobs than elected officials who, he said, would compromise their work to win the support of the

electorate.

Mr. Majali said democracy should be viewed as a means and not an objective, and the focus should be on serving national interests.

Other deputies who supported the appointment of the Amman mayor argued that elections could produce "illiterate" and unqualified persons to handle the affairs of the 1.5 million-strong city whose annual budget is estimated at JD 70 million.

But "why should we question the ability of half the population of Jordan and appoint guardians for (Jordanians) of the highest economic and educational levels?" asked IAF Deputy Abdul Rahim Al Ekkour in protest.

"Let's go home," said Deputy Munir Sober, addressing those who doubt the ability of the people to elect qualified representatives.

(Continued on page 10)

House defers debate on insurance law following government request

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lawmakers Sunday agreed to postpone debate of a draft law on the control of the insurance sector until the government and insurance companies end their negotiations over the draft legislation.

The government last week presented the draft law to the Lower House of Parliament as an urgent legislation but Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday asked lawmakers to put off discussion of the law in light of "new developments" that led to the negotiations.

"The government had to present the law to the House as an urgent one because insurance companies stopped selling liability insurance ... but they have now reversed their decision and negotiations are underway," Dr. Majali told the House.

House Speaker Taher Al Masri said Dr. Majali had informed him that "new developments" requiring the postponement of the law had emerged.

Deputies agreed with the government that discussion of the draft law should be put off but differed with it on the reasons for the delay.

"Laws should be studied with objectivity and not in light of temporary negotiations," said Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Mohammad Awada, who charged the government turned down the insurance companies' request to double the cost of liability insurance.

After the draft law was approved by the Cabinet, insurance companies reversed their decision and are once again selling liability insurance.

"This is unacceptable," he said.

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour said laws governing the country should not be tied to conflicts between officials and a certain sector, adding that the haste with which the government presented the draft law and then asked it be delayed casts doubt on the motivations behind the legislation.

Dr. Majali rejected these arguments, saying the draft law became urgent after insurance companies stopped issuing liability insurance, thus "putting people in danger."

"The cabinet approved the draft law in order to get away from this situation," he said, adding that the conflict erupted when the government

turned down the insurance companies' request to double the cost of liability insurance.

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"The draft law is in your hands and under your authority and the (government) will not take the interests of citizens lightly," Dr. Majali told deputies.

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"We are not calling for the moon to make our people safe from massacres."

"Who will protect the Palestinians? They will be protected by the settlers? Or by the army which is involved in the massacre?" said Mr. Arafat.

He said that he felt betrayed by the Sep. 13 agreement with Israel at the White House.

"After seven months, since the White House ceremony, nothing has been implemented on the ground. We spent seven months only on the security of the settlers and the settlements."

"Now it has become clear and obvious that it is the Palestinians who are in need of security," he added.

Mr. Arafat told the magazine that he had asked the

(Continued on page 10)

Saleh vows to defend Yemen's unity

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has accused his southern rivals of conspiring to divide the country and vowed to prevent a split at any price.

Mr. Saleh, a northerner whose feud with his southern deputy Ali Salem Al Beidh over political, economic and administrative reform has thrown the country into turmoil, said unity was a fact of life.

"Unity is a firm reality, a matter of destiny," he said in a televised speech on Saturday night.

"Any thinking of secession is out of the question. It will not happen no matter what the price will be."

Mr. Saleh, who with Mr. Beidh united the north and

south in 1990, attacked the government of Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, a member of Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP). It "does not know the first thing about development, but knows conspiring, deception and sowing seeds of sedition," he said.

The seven-month-old feud between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh has paralysed the government, threatened the unity of Yemen and sparked armed clashes between northern and southern troops.

The two men signed a reconciliation accord in Jordan two weeks ago but clashes between their rival armies erupted a few hours later. Political leaders on both sides have accused the other of failing to implement

the accord.

Last respects

Friends pay last respects to the dead next to the coffin of Ahmad Asselah, assistant director of the Algiers School of Fine Arts, who was shot dead by militants in the school campus on Saturday. Asselah, 54, was a prominent Algerian activist who had severely criticised Islamic hardliners who are waging a bloody campaign against the government. Asselah's 22-year-old son, a student at the school, was also killed in Saturday's attack. (AFP photo)



Massacre leaves Israelis stunned, searching

By Dan Perry
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The realisation that one man with a sub-machine gun in his hands and murder in his heart was able to set back hopes of peace has forced Israelis to take a hard look at themselves.

Many are anguished that a Jew could commit such an atrocity. After years of confronting Arab resistance, Israel now must come to grips with Jewish extremists they have long tolerated, even encouraged.

Government leaders set the tone for the soul-searching.

"As a Jew and an Israeli, as a man and a human being, I am humiliated by the shame brought upon us by this lowly killer," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an introspective speech to the parliament several days after settler Baruch Goldstein killed at least 60 worshippers in a Hebrew mosque.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called the gunman a Nazi and bemoaned "the confusion, hatred, insanity and loss of

values this event has revealed."

Their words reflected widespread amazement that a Jew, especially a religious one, had perpetrated the kind of act most Israelis associate with their enemies.

"Notice no one is calling Goldstein a terrorist," novelist Robert Rosenblatt said. "People can't grasp that a Jew committed an act of terror. But an Arab who carries out such a suicide attack is always a terrorist."

In a poll by the daily *Yedioth Ahronot* after the massacre, 66 per cent of those responding favoured ousting extremist groups such as Kach, to which Goldstein belonged. A majority of Israelis still oppose dismantling Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, but the margin is narrowing.

Even outside the militant settler movement, there were Israeli hawks who expressed support for Goldstein's act.

Doves said it underlined the need for peace.

"This whole thing makes me more sick than ever of the whole conflict," said Dan Greenberg, a 31-year-old dentist. "There's obviously no way we can live together with the Arabs."

His conclusion: Israel must

leave the occupied territories.

Nir Harel, a friend of Mr. Greenberg who formerly supported the right, said he voted for Mr. Rabin's Labour Party in the last election because years of the Palestinian uprising convinced him compromise was necessary. Now he has moved even farther to the left and supports a Palestinian state immediately.

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The more problems of this kind there are in the territories, the more there is a desire to quit the areas," said commentator Amnon Dankner.

Yisrael Harel, chairman of the settlers' council, agreed that the massacre had increased resentment of the settlers and weakened the resolve of Israelis to keep the occupied lands. He described Goldstein

as "a lethal agent in demolishing" the settlement movement.

The settlers' council representing the 144 Jewish settlements condemned the massacre, but urged settlers to resist any attempts by Israeli authorities to dislodge them.

Mr. Rabin is resisting pressure from both the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and his own coalition to dismantle Jewish settlements.

The Israeli-PLO accord envisages initial Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho for a five-year period while settlements remain in place, protected by the army.

Such difficult issues as Jerusalem, the settlements and permanent borders are to be raised only in final status talks, which can be postponed up to two years after autonomy is achieved.

Mr. Rabin has described the interim phase as necessary for building mutual confidence,

but there is growing sentiment in his Labour Party that it invites violence by extremists on both sides who want to scuttle the agreement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rebels free four relief workers in Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Four Sudanese relief workers seized along with a British aid worker by rebels in southern Sudan 11 days ago have been set free, a U.N. official said on Sunday. Dr. Khalid Adly, operations director in Sudan for the U.N.'s World Food Programme, said the four workers who were seized by the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Atar in Upper Nile state on February 24 had been freed at noon (1000 GMT) on Sunday. Brian Tattersall, the British WFP worker who had been seized at the same time, was released a few days after he was detained. Dr. Adly said the Sudanese nationals had been flown from Atar in a U.N. plane to Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile state. They were expected in Khartoum later on Sunday or on Monday. Dr. Adly said the group had been doing vaccination work and that three of them were there with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). He said there was no plan to stop work in the region, which has been the scene of unrest for years during the civil war which began in 1983, but said the U.N. would seek assurances from the SPLA that safety of its workers would be assured.

Djibouti steps up campaign against rebels

PARIS (R) — A human rights group said on Sunday that Djibouti military forces have stepped up a campaign against rebels in the north of the Red Sea state ahead of a visit by a French minister. The Djibouti Association for the Defence of Human Rights and Liberties (ADDHL) said in a statement received in Paris that many civilians in the northern region of Mabla and Weima were recently killed by government shelling and combat helicopters. Fighting in past days destroyed much of the livestock as well as the few water wells in the two regions, suffering from drought and targeted by a government embargo on shipments of food and medical aid, the association said. The fighting appeared to coincide with a coming visit by French Cooperation Minister Michel Roussin, who is to preside over a meeting of the Franco-Djiboutian joint commission in mid-March, it said. Mr. Roussin cancelled a meeting of the commission last July because of an offensive by government troops against rebels of the Front for the Restoration of Democracy and Unity (FRUD), it said.

Turkey ready to send troops to Bosnia

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish troops, which have not set foot in the Balkans since Ottoman rule ended there early this century, are poised to join the U.N. protection force in Bosnia, officials said on Sunday. Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu, spokesman for the offices of the armed forces chief of staff, told the Anatolia news agency that Turkey could contribute a brigade of troops to the government bad not yet authorised the despatch of the troops to Yugoslavia. "The armed forces are ready to serve the country in this capacity with dignity everywhere," Col. Silahcioglu said. The Turkish newspaper Hurriyet predicted on Sunday that Turkish troops would go to Bosnia next week at the request of the U.N. to patrol a buffer zone between Bosnian Muslims and Serb forces in Sarajevo. The newspaper, quoting unnamed diplomatic sources, said in a front-page report: "It will be the first time that our troops will step into the Balkans since the Ottoman times." Foreign ministry officials told Reuters a U.N. request had not yet been received by the government.

Somali leaders agree government proposals

proposal and form the government as soon as possible," he said.

A source close to the talks said the group, known as G12, had already agreed to propose a rotating presidency in which Gen. Aideed, a key figure in any new government, would be offered a place.

The talks, led by Somalia's self-styled Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, have gone ahead despite being boycotted by the powerful Mogadishu warlord Mohamud Farah Aideed.

"We have come to a common position on the form of the transitional government," said General Mohammad Abshir Musa, leader of the pro-Ali Mahdi wing of the Somalia Salvation Democratic Front.

The 12 faction leaders met Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa Saturday and briefed him on the results of their talks, which take place just four weeks before Western troops are due to complete their withdrawal from Somalia.

Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) has dismissed the Cairo talks as irrelevant but said Somalia's rival factions could meet within weeks on home soil to discuss the future of their shattered country.

"Our aim is to form a government before March 31," Mr. Ali Mahdi told reporters after the meeting with Mr. Musa.

"The G12 are going to reach an agreement and put it in front of the Somalis... we hope all the Somalis will accept this

Wednesday.

He said the G12 might ask countries like Egypt with troops remaining in Somalia after March 31 to increase the size of their forces to fill the vacuum left by departing U.S.

and European peacekeepers.

Security Council approves Kuwaiti payment to Iraqis

UNITED NATIONS (USIA)

—

The Security Council has given its approval to a plan by the United Nations to compensate Iraqi farmers with \$1.5 million Iraqi dinars (about \$24 million) for land lost during the official demarcation of the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Under the agreement worked out by the U.N., Iraqi citizens who found themselves on the Kuwaiti side of the border in the Umm Qasr and Al-Abdali areas will be compensated by Kuwait and are being relocated by Iraq.

The Iraq-Kuwait boundary demarcation commission, set up under the Gulf war ceasefire agreement, completed its work in 1993. At that time Kuwait informed the U.N. that Iraqi nationals would not be allowed to stay in Kuwait but would be compensated for

their private property and assets on the basis of an assessment made by a neutral party selected by the U.N.

Secretary General Boutros Ghali said in a report to the council that all Iraqi nationals in the Umm Qasr area "were relocated without disturbance to other dwellings in Iraq by the end of December 1993" and Kuwait allowed the Iraqis in the Al-Abdali farming area to remain until the end of February to harvest their crops. Iraq was to relocate the farmers to parcels of land in Iraq by March 1.

After an assessment by the independent contractor hired by the U.N., Dr. Ghali set the compensation at \$6 million Iraqi dinars for 95 farms and 15.5 million Iraqi dinars for 206 houses.

Kuwaiti emir urges better legislative-executive relations

KUWAIT (R)

— The emir of Kuwait has said the government and the opposition-dominated parliament should improve sometimes strained relations and learn to work together better.

The ruler of the affluent Gulf state of 1.5 million people said it was passing through a critical stage.

He repeated a call for Kuwaitis to curb what he called the style of luxury and overspending, saying it led to "arrogance and flabbiness."

In an annual televised address to the nation on Saturday evening marking the holy month of Ramadan, he said:

"The brothers in the executive and legislative authorities, and those who bear the trusteeship of this nation and realise deeply the critical circumstances under which we are passing, ought to respect the need of our people for the cooperation of the two authorities on the issues which affect the pre-

sent time of Kuwait and its future.

"We want them to consult not to quarrel, to differ not to antagonise, to criticise not to slander, to hold others accountable but not to seek revenge."

Parliament began sitting again in October 1992 after a six-year break when a general election returned an assembly dominated by an outspoken collection of opposition Islamists, leftists, liberals and democrats.

The emir dissolved the previous assembly at the height of the Iran-Iraq war in 1986, citing security concerns.

The government and assembly have clashed over a range of issues including allegations of corruption in handling once-vast overseas assets, awarding of defence contracts and ways of tackling longstanding debts that have enfeebled the economy since 1982.

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Cucumbers (small) 340 / 200

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Grapefruit 1100 / 900

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Lemon 850 / 650

Marrow (large) 180 / 100

Marrow (small) 150 / 100

Olives (green) 320 / 220

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12:30 Le Monde sous Maroc

Magazine Local

19:00 The weekly sport magazine

19:30 News in Arabic

21:30 News in Arabic

The Tomorrow

22:30 Le Caire Film: The Revolt

22:45 News

23:30

Fant

(Sunset Drama)

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23:45 Asr

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15:57 Isha

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Reform before raise

THE GOVERNMENT of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Nujaiji has shown considerable sensitivity toward the welfare of civil servants by setting up a commission to look into the possibility of salary raises in a bid to help them make ends meet. This is a well-intentioned step that no doubt state functionaries would welcome, considering their low incomes and constant increases in commodity prices. Recent reports that appeared in the local press speak of granting about 20 dinars to each government employee and pensioner; secretaries general of ministries stand to get bigger raises, and so do deputies, the reports said.

Under normal conditions it would be inexplicable to quarrel with the commission's recommendations for obvious reasons. But there is a problem. It lies in the fact that we have an unemployment crisis that the government would rather forget about. With 14 per cent unemployment in the labour force, according to official figures, there could be no escape from drawing a list of our economic priorities first.

Given the poverty and economic deprivation experienced by many thousands of Jordanians, the top priority should be accorded to the resolution or at least the alleviation of the unemployment problem. Improving the economic conditions of the employed is a fine objective provided it is not at the expense of other more pressing demands on our country. With the resources of the kingdom being indeed limited, the government should address first the unemployment situation. The millions that would have to be earmarked for salary increments could be better invested in economic projects that can generate employment for citizens. The second priority should go to restructuring the civil service, in a way that would reward those who do work and excel. The rest of the bureaucrats are either not needed or some of them in fact hamper work rather than improve it. The government bureaucracy cannot remain as big and inflated anyway, and a system has to be found where employment is created only in the private sector.

In saying this we do not mean to undermine our civil servants. Something along the line of the commission's recommendations should be done to adjust their salary base in a manner commensurate with the cost of living index. Old pensioners constitute the hardest hit category whose monthly retirement pay is no longer sufficient to maintain an acceptable standard of living. But any plan to increase salaries of state employees across the board as it was always done in the past, should not be implemented without overhauling the system first. The cabinet members should have given the country an example to emulate by delaying their decision to hike their own salaries at this critical time. Continuing in the path of the ministers would not be the right thing to do for the Kingdom at this juncture. If anything, the tide for wage increases should stop, pending real economic and administrative adjustments that need to be made right away.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI daily Sunday reflected on the situation in the aftermath of the Hebron massacre noting that everything is now quiet following the outcry raised in the past week. "For a whole week we heard Americans, Europeans and Arabs condemning the crime at Al Ibrahim Mosque, and Arabs angrily demanding that the negotiations with Israel be stopped immediately and that the Arab states prepare for war to regain their usurped lands," said the daily. But it seems, said the paper, that the Arabs are now sufficing themselves with a demand that the Palestinians be protected from the settlers in the occupied land. This means that we do not mind that occupation stays in place provided that the Palestinians are given protection. It is true that Washington bears the prime responsibility for the continued occupation of Palestine, but Washington can by no means feel as the Arabs do and would not care about the fate of the Palestinians, the paper continued. It is also unreasonable to ask the United States, which is the prime ally of the Jewish state, to judge fairly in our case and serve justice to the Palestinians since Washington can by no means abide by principles and human values in this case, added the paper. As long as the Arabs are dormant and doing nothing regarding the continued atrocities against their kinsmen, the U.S.-Israeli alliance is bound to pursue its plans to further humiliate the Arab Nation, the paper concluded.

WE CANNOT predict the outcome of the U.N. Security Council meetings over the Hebron mosque massacre simply because of the current U.S. pressure on council members not to condemn the Israeli action, said Sawi Al Shabab daily Sunday. Washington is continually exercising pressure on the Palestinians to resume the talks with the Israelis to avert council condemnation of the massacre and to avert any move to send U.N. peacekeeping forces to Palestine, said the daily. Of course, Washington cannot give up its backing to Israel under any circumstances and therefore no one expects the United Nations, which is under the influence of the United States, to take any move that would stem Israel's atrocities against the Arabs, the paper said. It is to be noted also that the mass... has embarrassed the United States as well as the Rabin government. But the paper said that by no means can this embarrass... "it affects the Israeli-American stand vis-a-vis the Palestinians."

WASHINGTON WATCH

Can the troubled peace process be revived?

By Dr. James Zogby

THE OUTRAGEOUS massacre at the Al Ibrahim Mosque has done more than cast a pall over the Middle East peace talks. It has had dramatic effects on the Palestinians, the Israelis and the Americans. It has exposed flaws in the process, the underlying vulnerability of the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships, and has deepened division within both societies.

There is no question but that in the end the massacre in Hebron will alter the Middle East peace equation — the question is will it be altered for the good of the process or to its detriment?

And that question can only be answered by the responses that all of the major parties to the talks give to the crucial issues raised by the massacre.

But it is important to note, at this late date, that even if the right responses are given to these concerns, the raw nerves exposed by the massacre may not be sufficiently healed so that the process can again move forward.

Obviously, the most dramatically affected party are the Palestinians. The massacre and its bloody aftermath in which more than 70 Palestinians have been killed (at least 60 in the mosque and the others by the Israeli army throughout the territories) have highlighted the extreme vulnerability and powerlessness of the people under occupation. They are defenseless and unable to effect any control over their daily lives. They are subject to arbitrary arrest and detention; collective punishment — house demolitions, roundups and curfews; random and provocative settler violence; acts of humiliation by the occupation army or settlers or both.

For the Palestinian community living under occupation, the Al Ibrahim Mosque massacre was, in more than one way, a lethal blow. It not only killed defenseless civilians at prayer, but it reminded Palestinians of the collective pain they have endured for the last 27 years. With the population already chafing at the slow pace of the negotiations and the concessions their leadership had been forced to make, the massacre further eroded Palestinian confidence in the peace process itself.

The powerlessness of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation and the asymmetry of power between the Israelis and the Palestinian negotiating teams are a mirror image of each other. Thus the vulnerability of the Palestinian leadership was also exposed by the massacre. In response, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced that it cannot return to the talks until Israel and the world community take certain steps to ensure the security of Palestinians living under occupation and address the issue of Israel's accelerated settlement drive.

"Simply put, the Palestinian leadership feels that it cannot continue to negotiate under the present rules of the game. Their constituency is too aggrieved, too vulnerable and so alienated from the process that further progress or even talks are impossible." Their return to the talks under current conditions would be rejected by the constituency and any deal they might reach would be a dead letter.

While differing conditions have been put forth by different PLO negotiators, the fundamental concerns relate to correcting the vulnerable state of their constituency and the need to restore confidence in the leadership and integrity to the entire process. And though the Israelis may argue with several of the PLO demands, the U.S. appear to be convinced that the PLO's assessment of the political situation is sufficiently correct to warrant some significant actions, if the talks are to resume.

Israel and its Labour government has also been affected by

the massacre, though in a more subtle way. The extreme shame and revulsion the massacre provoked in most Israelis was heartfelt, and it has generated an internal debate over what must be done to gain control over those elements of their society who not only reject the peace process but are also willing (and able) to wreck it with acts of provocation and terrorism.

Outsiders can find some of the statements by Israeli leaders to be disingenuous. They can say it was not one lone gunman — the Israeli army has itself committed such atrocities in the past and the racist ideology of the extremist settlers is shared by many figures in the Israeli political mainstream. But one must remember that the Israelis have in the past avoided accepting any part of the blame for acts of violence and shifted it off on others; whereas this time they simply accepted that one of their own had committed this terrible act.

"Simply put, the Palestinian leadership feels that it cannot continue to negotiate under the present rules of the game. Their constituency is too aggrieved, too vulnerable and so alienated from the process that further progress or even talks are impossible."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is acting out of a conviction that the process must go forward. He feels restraint from the right wing (which is one-half of the Israeli Knesset and public opinion) and from the mass psychology of anti-Arab fear and "Eretz Israel" sentiment that right-wing and centrist Israeli politicians have created over the past few decades. But he has been seeking a showdown with the extremists whom he feels are a real threat to peace, so he decided to act — but in a limited way — by disarming some settlers and to agree to some international presence (though not a force and only in a very limited area).

The problem for both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat (and, I would add, for mainstream Jewish-American and Arab-American leaders) is that while they are invested in each other and in making their shared process work, and while the mainstream of opinion in both communities remains supportive of them, there is a growing base of opinion that not only rejects their views and their leadership but also has become extremely harsh in their rhetoric and actions and is almost beyond their reach or control.

Can they regain lost ground? Can they rejuvenate their leaderships with a dramatic new deal that generates excitement and support and rekindles the spirit of hope of last Sept. 13th? Given the limited manoeuvrability of both leaderships, the answer to this question lies with the critical role that must be played by the third major party to the talks: the U.S. administration.

The Clinton administration has been working full time to find a way to resolve the impasse created by the massacre and reconvene the peace talks in Washington. It is fascinating to watch the change in how this administration is dealing with both the issues raised by this crisis and how they are dealing with both Arabs and Jews in an effort to find a solution and create a constituency that will support the peace process.

From Secretary of State Warren Christopher's strong words of praise for Mr. Arafat's leadership and his compassion for Palestinian victims, it is clear that there has been a change here in Washington. There can be no peace without the PLO, that is clear, but added to that is the realisation that unless the issues raised by the massacre are adequately addressed, the PLO will not be at the peace talks. So the order of the day is to find a way to take effective steps to create Palestinian confidence in the process and in the ability of their leadership to deliver on their security concerns so that the process can continue. At the same time, the administration is wary that it does not push Mr. Rabin so far as to hamstring him domestically.

The search is underway to find the formula and the mechanism that will meet the basic needs of both parties — and this is new. Palestinian security, at least on this level has now, for the first time, entered the political equation in Washington.

One sign of the administration's sensitivity to this new concern has been its intense consultation with Arab-Americans. In the past week, there have been regular Arab-American meetings at all levels of the administration, including meetings with both Secretary Christopher and Vice President Al Gore. At these meetings, Arab-Americans raised these issues:

— Providing international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories;

— The need to disarm the settlers in the West Bank and Gaza and regulation of their behaviour by the Israeli army;

— A full investigation of the connection Jewish extremist groups have with funding and training in the U.S. and a declaration of these groups as domestic terrorist groups;

— And U.S. pressure on Israel to stop building new settlements and confiscating land in all the occupied territories.

To all of these concerns, the administration has been sympathetic and responsive. While not agreeing on all the details of the Arab position, the administration is clearly making an effort to work to address these concerns so as to move the process forward.

The administration remains convinced that the best solution to the entire crisis is for the PLO and Israel to come to an agreement, which will begin the process of Israeli withdrawal and will establish, in Secretary Christopher's words, "Palestinian control over their own lives," and will create new conditions on the ground in the relations between Palestinian and Israeli.

Palestinians agree, of course, with this assessment and would therefore like to return to the talks as soon as possible. With the U.S. realising their dilemma and pressing for stronger terms that will meet Palestinian needs, it may be possible to see a return to the peace talks in the near future.

The question that remains is, will reconvening the peace talks or even completing an Israel-PLO agreement be enough to remove the poison that has contaminated relations in the wake of the Hebron massacre? In part, time will tell, but so too will the effectiveness of U.S. diplomacy and the commitment of Israel to make real changes that restore Palestinian confidence in the talks and the integrity of the peace process.

The writer is President of the Washington-based Arab American Institute.

Can Bosnia pact become reality?

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States, having finally gotten directly involved in the search for peace in war-torn Bosnia, seems to have scored a success in the Muslim-Croat federation agreement signed last week.

But whether this accord can ultimately help return the former Yugoslav republic to any kind of normalcy remains an open question, even to those who worked hardest to achieve it.

As international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, who tried and failed to make peace in Bosnia, were quick to remind Washington, negotiations will not be over until Serbs, the strongest faction controlling 70 per cent of Bosnian territory, are included.

A U.S. official close to the negotiations acknowledged that it may be impossible to bring the Serbs on board. In that case, the hope is that Muslims and Croats will still see the benefit in moving ahead with their federation, or JNA.

"There is a totally different spirit than in the past... A new level of commitment" that is reflected in the way Muslims and Croats in their agreement attacked and resolved details of important, highly contentious issues, he said.

With the pact, Bosnian Muslims and Croats agreed to form a federation, with a strong central government and substantial local self-government, that would then establish a loose confederation with neighbouring Croatia.

The two groups, allies against Serbs when Bosnia's civil war erupted in 1992, have been battling for territory in central Bosnia for nearly a year.

The accord aims at ending that rivalry, increasing pressure on Serbs to make concessions toward a wider negotiated peace settlement and enhancing the prospects Bosnia can remain a multi-ethnic state that is politically and economically viable.

George Kenney, one of several State Department officials who resigned last year over Bosnia policy, said his initial reaction to the

agreement was scepticism.

The pact leaves military arrangements to be worked out over the next two weeks by a high-level transitional committee and this, he told Reuters, appears to be a major weakness.

Before settling security issues, "I don't see any prospect for a (viable) political settlement," he said.

For the moment, the Muslim-Croat pact, reached after four days of intensive U.S.-hosted talks in Washington, is at least one bit of good news for a state that until recently has had little of that since the Bosnian war began in 1992.

It also is a boost for the Clinton administration whose foreign affairs record is mixed and has been badly scarred by its early wavering on Bosnia policy.

The Americans say NATO's show of strength last month in threatening air strikes if Serbs did not withdraw heavy weapons from around Sarajevo has created momentum to move quickly towards a negotiated peace settlement in Bosnia.

As with the NATO ultimatum, U.S. leadership in the Muslim-Croat pact seems to have been key.

The Muslims have long looked to Washington as protector and sought to have it enter the conflict on their side, which it has now basically done in the diplomatic arena.

U.S. officials insisted they would not pressure the Muslims into a deal but try to get them to sort out their basic requirements for a peace settlement.

Also, U.S. officials said the administration essentially confronted Croatia with an ultimatum.

Croatian leaders were told to forget about annexing Bosnian Croat territory. They were also told that if they joined peace talks this would open up access to Western political and economic benefits and if they did not, Croatia would face isolation and perhaps economic sanctions.

"There is nothing like the great moral leadership of the United States," Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said at the signing ceremony at the U.S. State Department.



Hebron massacre exposes futility of Oslo accord

By G.H. Jansen

DURING THE week that has passed since the Hebron mosque massacre on Friday Feb. 25, it has become clear that the most significant and dangerous long-term consequence of the killing is its weakening and virtual destruction of the credibility of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership.

This deterioration has been made evident by two kinds of recent happenings. Television viewers were astounded a few days ago when they saw a crude effigy of a man, a black and white checkered kaffiyeh draped over its head, therefore representing PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, being burned in a Palestinian refugee camp while a crowd of refugees cheered and jeered.

The camp dwellers, as they are called, have always been Mr. Arafat's staunchest supporters, his real power base, and for them to turn against him is proof that the fruitless peace process, that began with the wretchedly lopsided Oslo accord, has stripped him of his charisma and the claim that he is "Mr. Palestine." Further, Mr. Arafat's designated right-hand man in

future, bc will be assassinated. The most that is hoped for is that the killer of "Mr. Palestine" will not be a Palestinian (though that is inevitable) and that the killing will not happen on Palestinian soil when he returns in a few months to Gaza or Jericho.

It is not the mosque massacre produced a sudden and violent revulsion against the PLO. The disgust and disillusionment has been there and growing even before the Oslo accord of last September; because of his autocratic style of leadership which has produced few if any results so far.

Since for the Palestinians, the root of all evil in the peace process is the unbalanced Oslo accord — which the PLO made a great mistake in accepting — it is not surprising that one of the first Palestinian demands after the massacre is that the "Gaza-Jericho First" accord be renegotiated. But renegotiations are such a basic necessity that it is bound to reappear. Israel, realising that the accord gave it all that it wanted, is now saying that what was agreed must not be touched. This position, if accepted by the Palestinians, must inevitably produce more conflicts because the

The writer is a Cyprus-based writer who is specialised in Islamic and Middle Eastern affairs.

Human Rights File

Debating the death penalty

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

WHAT IS it exactly that makes a capital punishment acceptable when a policeman is murdered but not acceptable when the life of a private citizen is taken away? It would seem that the arguments against the death penalty would apply with equal force irrespective of whether the murdered person is an official of the state or not. Many prohibitionists would argue that the most compelling reason against the application of the death penalty lies in the imperfection of the judicial system even in the most advanced countries and the possibility that an innocent man or woman could end up going to the gallows.

There is a current debate in the British parliament about the reintroduction of the death penalty and the forces against this step are submitting over and over again the lessons to be learned from the infamous cases of Guilford Four and the Birmingham Six when the wrong persons were hanged.

In the context of the endemic debate about the issue in Britain, the shadow Home Secretary Tony Blair has this to say in opposition to the death sentence even when the murdered persons are policemen: "The most powerful argument (against the penalty) is the risk that we will kill the innocent." Similar submissions are being heard in many other industrial countries where the wave against this punishment is gaining currency and support. Interestingly enough, all the attempts to reintroduce the death penalty even to limited categories of crimes in England have been defeated. Elsewhere in the Western world, with the exception of the U.S., the battle between prohibitionists and those who would rather go back to the penalty has been steadily won by the former. In the U.S., where crime is rampant and on the increase, public sentiment is still solidly against the ending of capital punishment.

The underlying factor behind this lingering American position on this severe punishment is the conviction that it serves as a powerful deterrent. What belies this stance is the finding that in spite of the continued application of the death penalty, crime is still on the rise. Other societies have different results, with countries like China and Saudi Arabia pointing out that their respective low rate of crime is directly attributable to the liberal application of the death penalty.

No independent studies have been conducted on this controversial subject to show one way or another and in a conclusive manner whether in fact the capital penalty has a bearing on crime. Strangely enough, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which serves as the overall umbrella international forum to examine human rights issues, has yet to embark on such a subject. It would seem such a scientific study of the relationship between crime and punishment is overdue. Only such closer scrutiny of the correlation between crime and punishment would lay to rest all the current debate about the subject.

Having said that, it would be prudent to point out that the subject of the death penalty goes deeper than the deterrent value of the penalty. As stated earlier, one of the strongest arguments against the penalty can be found in the fact that the systems of justice are never infallible to the extent that innocent people can be saved. The war of wits between prosecution and defense, especially in the adversarial system of justice, never guarantee fairness of trials. There is no such thing as perfect judicial examination of crime. As long as this proposition is a fact of life, it would seem that the death penalty would always carry with it the possibility of innocent people going to the gallows.

This is one side of the question. The other dimension is the right to life that no state must infringe upon even in the gravest of crimes. In this vein, it is often mentioned that only God gives and takes life. As one British MP stated recently during the debate on the death penalty: "if we do incorporate the taking of life, the killing of people, into our legislation, then we have taken the values and the methods of the terrorist, of the gangster, of the gunman, and written it into our legislation."

Of course, this submission can always be rebutted by the equally forceful argument that the lives of people who are murdered are also deserving protection. The question that remains is how to reconcile the two objectives. Many people who oppose the prohibitionists admit that their opposition would have been less dogmatic had there been effective ways to keep criminals and killers off the streets by maintaining an adequate system of incarceration. It is a fact of life that many criminals do not serve their full sentences. It is also a fact of life that legal safeguards for the accused have gone overboard to the detriment of the rights of the murdered ones and the victims of lesser crimes. The legal pendulum has truly swung too far in the direction of the accused and to the extent that many criminals are set free roaming the streets. The arguments against the death penalty could get a better hearing if such deficiencies in the application of justice are rectified.

House puts of debate on insurance

(Continued from page 1)

investment environment, ending monopolies and maintaining balance among all economic sectors.

"Our dispute with the companies only led to expediting the legislation... the law was not meant as a pressure card and was prompted by our responsibility towards citizens whose interests were threatened," Ms. Khalaf told lawmakers.

Deputy Saleh Irsheidat questioned the argument of the minister, saying the insurance companies should have been consulted before adopting an approach that could throw the House into "political disputes."

Mr. Irsheidat indirectly criticised Ms. Khalaf for allegedly attempting to win public support by exploiting the issue politically through the use of sensitive words like "monopolies."

"As deputies we are not a party to conflicts. We want laws that protect citizens and we ask the government not to drag the house into political conflicts," Mr. Irsheidat said.

Saying that the insurance sector is one of the most successful industries in the Kingdom, Deputy Ali Abul Ragheb cited the presence of 17 insurance companies in the country.

EU backs Palestinian demand

(Continued from page 1)

Minister Farouk Al Sharara on how to revive the two-year-old Arab-Israeli talks.

Mr. Van den Brock later left for home to prepare for a meeting of the EU in Brussels on Monday. He said the meet-

ing would discuss what measures should be taken to revive the talks.

Mr. Papoulias later met President Hafez Al-Assad at the presidential palace in Damascus, officials said.

The end of an era

Technology transforms journalism in a generation

By Andrew L. Litubers
USIA Staff Writer

IN A single generation, the historical equivalent of an eye blink, technology has transformed the way news is covered and reported around the world.

The era of pen and pad, typewriters, teletype machines, simple telephone lines and tape recorders, and smoke-filled, overwhelmingly male newsrooms has been replaced by one of computers, cellular and portable satellite telephones, digital audio, and fiber optic and satellite transmission. Newsrooms tend to be smoke-free and now welcome women in droves.

Along with those technological and personnel changes, say four of Washington's leading journalists, has come an explosion in the amount of general and special interest news available. Unfortunately, they add, this has included an enormous rise in the reporting of entertainment and sensationalism passed off as news.

"I was reflecting, I think, a complacency that existed across the broadcast networks. They had the market. They had it locked. Nobody was going to take a chunk out of this niche that they had operating and bad had operating for a number of years."

"A guy like Ted Turner came along and said, 'I think there are cheaper ways to do what they do; there are better ways to do what they do, and, by God, we're going to give it a shot.' And he did, and he was absolutely right. No, nobody is laughing anymore."

In television, Mr. Headline said, the most profound changes have been the move from film to videotape "and then the geometric acceleration" in audience and entertainment.

William W. Headline, vice president and Washington bureau chief for Cable News Network (CNN), has witnessed all the changes during his 30 years in broadcast journalism, including the rise of CNN and simultaneous decline of journalism at the American television networks.

Mr. Headline, 62, worked at CBS News, home of Edward R. Murrow and a score of other journalistic giants who learned their craft covering World War II, from 1967 to 1983, lastly as Washington de-

puty bureau chief.

Eleven years ago, the then fledgling CNN beckoned, "and in spite of dire predictions of a short-term employment from my many colleagues and the other networks, I decided to go ahead and gamble, and I think I won," Mr. Headline said in an interview at his office.

"I was one of the people who laughed and said things like, 'Who is Ted Turner to get into the news business?' and 'Who has got cable and who the hell is going to be looking at a 24-hour news operation?' None of it made sense."

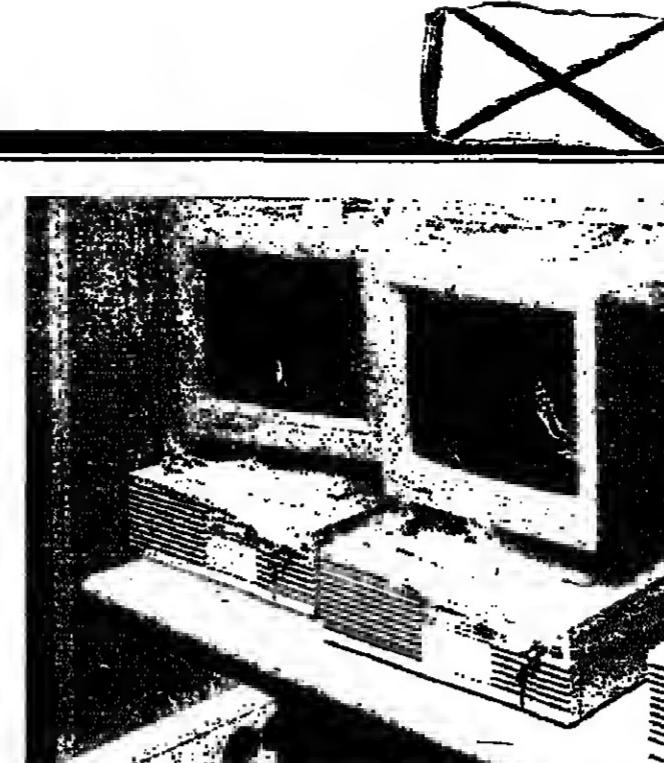
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Computers bring about a lasting change to the world of journalism (File photo)

recent trip to Europe, CNN was able to use a microwave link between Kiev, a city not visited often by Western journalists, and Moscow to broadcast Mr. Clinton's visit to the Ukrainian capital live.

"You know the briefcase-size satellite transmitting dish, it exists," he added. "Governments have been using gear of that kind for years for security operations. That'll all be in the public domain in time, and rest assured we'll use it."

Mr. Headline is concerned about the rise in entertainment-as-news, but not pessimistic for the future. "I'm getting old enough so that I've seen some of these pendulums swing back and forth a bit."

"Maybe I'm crazy," he added, "but I firmly believe that traditional journalistic standards will be well represented in the journalism of the future."

Bill Buzenberg, vice president of news and information at National Public Radio (NPR), has also seen his medium transformed by technology and NPR's audience go from 200 stations when he started in 1978 to 489 across the United States, today. NPR, which has become the U.S. leading radio news

network, receives two-thirds of its funding from the stations and the rest from foundations and corporate donors.

A former foreign correspondent in Washington and London, Mr. Buzenberg, 47, remembers that NPR had one 90-minute programme five days a week when he began. "Today we are doing major programming seven mornings, seven evenings a week," he said.

NPR now has 12 full-time foreign correspondents, and is reaching a growing FM audience in Europe and Mexico. The first steps in what Mr. Buzenberg expects will become a global network.

Mr. Downie believes this trend is true for a lot of newspaper journalism, and certainly for major metropolitan papers like the Post. "And I think that's the right role for them, because we can't imitate television or what the media say. Instead, we are at our best when we complement television and computers and radio by providing what you can't get more in your newspaper."

"And if you give people more in the newspaper, then that means people will continue to buy newspapers. I think that if we stop doing that, we cease to have a reason to exist."

Mr. Downie concedes that the explosion in general and special interest news and growth of entertainment news has segments of audiences, but he does not see as necessarily a threat to good journalism.

"I think serious issues... are... to continue to be a trend in what is increasingly an information society," he said. "However, that doesn't mean that networks or major newspapers or major general interest magazines are going to survive, a priori, because there are alternative ways of obtaining this information."

Hedrick Smith, who won one Pulitzer Prize and shared another during his 26 years with the New York Times, agrees about the segmentation of journalism and audiences but is concerned for the craft. The author of the best-selling books "The Russians" and "The New Russians," Mr. Smith, 60, speaks from the vantage of having moved from print to freelance broadcast journalism since he left the Times in 1988.

"There is absolutely no question that the news media now are much more greatly influenced by the standards of supermarket tabloids, tabloid television journalism, the entertainment world," he said. "That has had a very bad effect on the quality of news coverage."

"I think every evidence has been over the last couple of decades that the mass marketing of products and the mass marketing of politicians and now the mass marketing of news simply has the effect of lowering the common denominator of the media in general," he added. "That doesn't mean you don't have quality outlets in the midst of all that, and it doesn't mean that you aren't going to get some examples that are going up and improving."

Mr. Smith said the hope for those quality outlets lies in segmented audiences that demand quality news coverage and reporting.

German cities struggle with Bosnian refugees

By Michael Christie
Reuter

MAINZ, Germany — Franjo Crnova, a refugee from the war in Bosnia, shares a cramped stuffy cabin on a German barge with his wife Maria and their three-year-old daughter Renata.

It may not be much, but the bunk bed and the shabby plastic furniture are an improvement on the mortars and sniper bullets the Mr. Crnovas left behind in former Yugoslavia after their home town was "ethnically-cleaned" by Serb forces.

"Germany is super," says Mr. Crnova, a 28-year-old

Bosnian Croat. "We have food, heating, shelter."

The Crnovas are among around 400,000 war refugees from Bosnia and Croatia who have been given sanctuary in Germany — more than in any other country outside former Yugoslavia.

But the compassion that drove cities like Mainz, in southwest Germany, to open their doors is threatened by a severe shortage of cash.

Like the federal government in Bonn, local authorities have seen tax revenues dwindle because of recession and the cost of huge transfers to former Communist East Germany.

For cities like Mainz, however, the Croatian refugees are a drop in the ocean compared with the torrent of

Muslims and Croats pouring out of Bosnia.

"We're bursting at the seams," said Willi Abts, head of Mainz's Welfare Office. "We're stuffed to the roof beams."

The city of 175,000 is already home to around 1,300 Bosnian war refugees housed in hotels, disused offices that are due for demolition as well as on the barge on the Rhine, which accommodates 147 people in less than ideal conditions.

Two hundred new arrivals from Bosnia came here in January. The total number is expected to double in 1994.

costing the city 17.3 million marks (\$10 million).

The city, which also houses around 1,700 asylum-seekers from other countries, gets no financial help from Bonn for the war refugees and does not know where it will find this money.

Mainz cannot shoulder the costs of war in another country," Mr. Abts says.

On a typical day last month, veteran refugee worker Margit Kobold arrived at her office to find 47 people waiting for her.

"They stood queuing all the way down the street, with all their luggage, babies and

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

TENDER NUMBER 5/94 DIGITAL TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 5/94 "Digital Transmission Equipment".

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- A) (70) Optical-fiber links with a total length of 750 km.
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- C) (13) Microwave links including terminal & multiplex equipment
- D) (13) Microware towers
- E) Supervisory equipment using TMN system.

In addition to that, spare parts, civil works needed for cables laying and towers' erection and training of TCC staff in operation and maintenance are required.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their tenders in accordance with terms, conditions and technical specifications contained in the tender documents.

Tenderers are requested to submit in addition to price offer a financing proposal to finance the foreign currency portion of the contract to be awarded.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Tenderers are requested to submit their tenders in three separate sealed envelopes as follows:

FIRST: Containing the technical offer

SECOND: Containing the "Price Only" on cash basis offer

THIRD: Containing price plus financing offer i.e.:

- a) Price based on financing.
- b) The financing offer

Technical offers will be opened and evaluated first. Price and financing offers for technically acceptable offers will then be opened.

Tender documents may be obtained from Tender Section/TCC headquarters, Tower Building as from Tuesday, March 8, against a non-refundable fee of (1500) one-thousand and five hundred Jordanian dinars.

Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee, are to be submitted in English not later than 12 a.m. local time on Saturday 18, June, 1994.

The technical offers will be opened in the presence of tenderers' representatives, who wish to attend, on the same date.

Note: The last date for purchasing the tender documents is April, 20, 1994.

Chairman of Special Tenders Committee
Ahmed Al-Nawawi

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

TENDER NOTICE ISSUED BY THE "SPECIAL TENDER COMMITTEE" FOR THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

TENDER NUMBER 4/94 DIGITAL SWITCHING EQUIPMENT

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 4/94 "Digital Switching Equipment".

Economy

Kuwait government urged to back bad debt plan

KUWAIT (R) — An economic law, due Saturday, urged Kuwait's government to throw out a bill behind a law that would be testing bad debts and revise calls for repayment to soften the blow.

Priming Al Shall consultants said the government wavering on the issue could hurt the state's net \$10 billion in bad debts and a decade has enfeebled a lending system that was once one of the Gulf's most vibrant.

"The government has to make up its mind," Al Shall said in a handwritting weekly communiqué. "It should stop hesitation, since that greatly affects the course of implementation of the solution."

"Searching for a cost-effective solution to the crisis is an impossibility. Trading short term costs for deeper and comprehensive medium and long-term costs is unbearable. The country will have as a result

economic and political disadvantages," Al Shall stressed.

Some businessmen and members of parliament have proposed lengthening to 20 years from 12 years a rescheduling option offered under the law that took effect in September, saying implementation of the existing terms would harm the economy and cause bankruptcies.

A newspaper last week reported Prime Minister Saad Al Abdulla Al Sabah as saying the government would consider amending the law if parliament came up with suitable proposals.

The debt derives partly from the 1982 crash of an unofficial stock exchange used by all sectors of society and partly from commercial losses aggravated by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

The names of the 9,546 corporate and individual borrowers including major com-

panies have never been published. Debtors have until an April 1 to choose a repayment option.

"We believe in the neutrality by officials," Al Shall said. "They have to provide a model for respect of the law and its implementation. This will greatly enhance the law's implementation course. In addition it will reduce the potential for collisions and gradually bring about respect for the law."

Al Shall, whose director Jassim Al Saadeen is an economic adviser to the opposition-dominated parliament, said a settlement would give a psychological boost to the economy and remove business uncertainties blocking a series of long awaited privatisations in the state orchestrated economy.

Meanwhile, a commercial bank survey said Kuwait has set the stage for economic revival by drawing up plans for

privatisation, foreign investment and a bad debt settlement, although budget cuts could slow the economy in the short term.

"Kuwait's economy is positioned to experience a turnaround in business and financial activity," the survey by the economic and planning division of National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) said.

"Although the fragile conditions in the international oil markets would continue to be a restraining factor on the capabilities of government to carry out an expansionary fiscal policy, the implementation of the debt settlement programme and other reforms recommended by the cabinet committee and the World Bank should enhance the chances for a better economic performance in 1994," the survey concluded.

The economy is weighed down by a population fall,

security worries about Iraq, bad debt problems, a dominant but unproductive state sector and a year-long slide in the price of oil, Kuwait's single natural resource.

The government expects low oil prices will inflate the projected 1.2 billion dinar (\$4.0 billion) 1993/94 budget deficit, already equivalent to one fifth of gross domestic product, by 210 million dinars (\$707 million).

Finance ministry officials say they are discussing a proposal for a 20 per cent spending cut in a new trade pact.

The NBK survey added: "The immediate prospects for the economy are for slower growth. The belt-tightening measures and subsequent decline in government expenditure, the main catalyst of business activity, mean that non-oil sector growth is expected to remain moderate in the coming years."

Year of consolidation seen for Europe's car makers

GENEVA (R) — West Europe's car sales are expected to stage a feeble rally in 1994 after plateauing for two million last year, the industry's worst performance since the 1930s.

As industry leaders gather here for the first big international car show of the year, analysts say it is hard to see grounds for optimism, at least in the short term. Balance sheets are awash with red ink, costs are still too high and more cutbacks are on the cards.

Competition, already fierce from Japan, is likely to get even tougher as low-end producers from countries like South Korea and Malaysia ship more cars to Europe.

Not only are the new cars expected to be more expensive to buy, but buyers' hysteria among consumers "is fading," said

Peter Schmidt, market analyst at British industry consultants Automotive Industry Data, commenting on the expected lineup of new cars.

The most significant world debut at the show, which is open to the public from March 10 to March 20, is a multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) jointly developed by Peugeot of France and Italy's Fiat. MPVs look more like vans than cars, and can sit up to eight passengers.

German luxury car maker BMW unveils its "Compact," a shortened version of its successful "3" series. General Motors Europe introduces the Opel/Vauxhall "Omega" executive car, and Volkswagen (VW) subsidiary Audi its up-market aluminium-bodied A8.

Concept cars on show for the first time include Ford's

ronded little KA, and the Mercedes Swatch town car.

"1994 will be another grim year [for sales], with at best a marginal increase from last year. The bleak outlook will be reflected in the mood of manufacturers, and I'll be surprised if they'll be upbeat," says Mr. Schmidt.

Last year, West Europe's car sales dropped more than 15 per cent to about 11.45 million, the steepest annual decline in 50 years. Analysts believe that this year sales will at least stop plummeting, and maybe edge up slightly to about 11.6 or 11.7 million.

Most industry leaders agree.

London's Economist Intelligence Unit recently interviewed the chief executives of Europe's big six car makers. Peugeot and Fiat were the most optimistic, predicting

growth of three per cent and 2.5 per cent.

Ford Europe saw a slight increase. General Motors Europe a slight decline. V.W. Germany expected stagnation, while France's Renault hoped the market had hit bottom.

The key to recovery lies in recession-hit Germany, which accounts for almost 30 per cent of the West Europe market.

Last year sales there dived by almost one fifth, but portents for 1994 are not positive.

According to London forecaster DRI/McGraw-Hill, Germany's economic woes are not about to be resolved.

"While the German economy appears to have reached bottom, we believe that the recession will end in a period of stagnation, with economic growth remaining close to zero in 1994," DRI says in a report.

"I expect German sales to fall again this year, by about five per cent to 3.03 million," says John Lawson, director of DRI's automotive group. Mr. Lawson expects some of the slack to be taken up by recovering markets in Britain, France, Spain, and Scandinavia, to give an anaemic 1.2 per cent growth to 11.6 million for 1994.

The industry can point to some positive factors. Forecasts for 1995 are much more positive, with growth of up to nine per cent expected. Longer range predictions point to a powerful rally towards the end of the decade.

Two million people who might have bought cars last year didn't.

Vic Heylen, managing director of Analyse Auto in Antwerp, Belgium said:

IMF rushes to shore up stricken Africa franc zone

ABIDJAN (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is running against the clock to process loans for 13 African countries reeling under the impact of a massive devaluation.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus wants all the deals sealed by April so new money can bolster governments' faltering inflation, high wage demands and rumblings of political unrest.

If it fails to help control prices, essential social and economic services will suffer as well as the rest of the economy.

Senegal won quick relief from the Paris Club of creditor nations which agreed on Friday to halve its debt service obligations.

The measure, certain to be extended to the rest of the unlucky 13, effectively maintained the value of Senegal's debt in terms of its devalued CFA currency.

The CFA used in former French colonies was devalued by 50 per cent against hard currencies on Jan. 12. The long-awaited measure was taken when France withdrew

its support under pressure from the IMF and World Bank.

The first CFA devaluation since 1948 exposed exactly how dependent on imports and unprocessed exports of raw materials the African franc zone is.

The currency's previous high value made investment in local industry almost pointless.

Inflation for low-earning families has ranged from 15-30 per cent in the zone in the two months since the devaluation, economists say.

African presidents who were forced to swallow the pill are bitter as they watch their people's shocked and angry response.

Congo's Pascal Lissouba, who flies to Paris on Sunday to press France for more help, warned of mass migration to Europe by desperate Africans.

"Africa is not appetising any more because of the end of the

cold war and new interests elsewhere. But its starving millions are at the gates of Europe," he told reporters in Brazzaville.

President Omar Bongo of Gabon organised a protest last week when CFA governments except Ivory Coast's complained at a Libreville meeting of the harsh consequences of devaluation.

Many Western and African economists have little sympathy for the beleaguered presidents, saying their bad management and profligacy are to blame for today's crisis.

Ivory Coast, the world's main cocoa producer and the zone's biggest economy, is expected to get its IMF deal approved within days. Government sources say it will be a three-year enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF) worth about \$470 million.

Paris Club help is vital to Ivory Coast whose total external debt of nearly \$20 billion makes it the world's most indebted country in per capita terms.

President Henri Konan Bedie's government, a rarity because it virtually advocated devaluation, is struggling harder than most to control inflation for the lowest-paid.

It has pegged wage increases to between five and 25 per cent but also tried to freeze prices of essential items until April 1. With prices still shooting up, it announced fines totalling 72 million CFA (\$122,000) on scores of shopkeepers on Friday.

"If tomorrow, factories

come to a halt in Ukraine and this is a reality if there is no gas — what carrying out of commitments can be spoken of," he said.

Ukraine's only other gas supplier, Turkmenistan, cut off supplies on Feb. 20, also because of non-payment on a debt of about \$700 million.

Strikes and protests about economic hardship are frequent.

Was next in line with a \$26 million loan on Friday.

Deals with the fund, dependent on governments agreeing to curb public spending and reshape economic policy, pave the way for other donors to ease debt burdens and inject new cash.

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Bosnian Serb planes reportedly bomb Muslim stronghold of Maglaj

SARAJEVO (AP) — Serb artillery bombed a bridge in a Muslim area Sunday, less than a week after NATO jets shot down four other Serb warplanes on a similar sortie, reporters said.

The Serb bombing ran over 100,000 in north-central Bosnia, as reported by Sarajevo radio and Croatian TV. U.N. officials in Zagreb said they had no information on any Serb air attack, and there was no immediate response from UNPROFOR or Bosnian Serb authorities.

The media reports said the Serb planes made two runs at the one bridge in Maglaj, about 15 miles south of the bridge which spans the Bosna River, "destroyed."

Air strikes would be a flagrant violation of a U.N.-mediated mostly zone over Sarajevo and a clear challenge of how well demonstrated NATO's resolve to punch warning patrols through the wall of the international community.

Two U.S.-spotted U-2s flying down from Serb-piloted aircraft apparently were hitting targets in the central and eastern parts of Mostar and Miljacka. That came

just a week after a Bosnian Serb complied with a NATO ultimatum to surrender or pull back heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

Serbs appeared conciliatory in the wake of the confrontations. But there are recent signs that they are once again testing NATO's resolve to maintain the ceasefire.

A Serb-U.N. confrontation continued over six Serb artillery guns the United Nations said were violating a pledge to withdraw all heavy weapons from within 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) of Sarajevo.

But that stand-off was easing, with U.N. officials saying the Serbs had agreed to withdraw the Howitzers despite their contention that they were not violating the NATO-mandated exclusion zone.

"They expressed that they will be willing to move their guns out of the place they are occupying right now," said Maj. Annink, a U.N. spokesman. He said he hoped the artillery would be removed Sunday.

NATO resolve in laying the withdrawal of heavy guns from around Sarajevo and in enforcing the U.N. no-fly zone over

the republic had made the Bosnian Serbs more willing to compromise in the last two weeks.

But in other signs that the Bosnian Serbs may be rethinking their stance, their troops opened fire late Saturday on French U.N. soldiers along Sarajevo's contested Jewish cemetery. U.N. officials called it a deliberate attack on peacekeepers.

One French soldier was slightly injured in the attack, according to Maj. Annink. French troops returned fire.

"We think this was deliberate attack on the U.N. troops," Maj. Annink said.

It was the second clash in three days involving French peacekeepers at the cemetery, which lies on a hill in the southern part of Sarajevo. On Thursday, French troops returned fire when Bosnian Serbs began shelling on their position.

With the ceasefire under strain, the U.N. chief representative in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, flew to Sarajevo Sunday. He and the U.N. commander for Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, left for nearby Pale for a meeting

with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Maj. Annink also disclosed the U.N. discovery of six Serb 122mm Howitzers late Thursday just inside the exclusion zone around the Bosnian capital. U.N. officials said earlier reports that all but one of the Howitzers had been withdrawn were incorrect.

U.N. officials did not make clear whether Serbs recently had moved the six Howitzers back into the exclusion zone, or whether the guns simply were discovered belatedly.

The United Nations has authorised NATO to bomb any heavy weapons not pulled back from Sarajevo or put under U.N. control.

Despite numerous apparent violations since the ultimatum on artillery passed two weeks ago, U.N. officials maintain that Bosnian Serbs have mostly complied and that NATO air strikes have been unnecessary.

But with major powers cool to supply the U.N. with thousands more troops to police the fragile Sarajevo ceasefire, there was concern that Serbs might be testing the international community's re-solve.



A U.N. soldier from the Nordic Battalion controls with the support of a tank a passage road in the Dubostica Mountains between Tuzla and Sarajevo (AFP photo)

S. African white right is in disarray

JOHANNESBURG (R) —

South Africa's white right-wing

had handed pre-election forces

a major victory with its internal

squabbling over whether to take

part in the poll next month, political analysts said

Sunday.

Sources close to the Afrikaner People's Front (APF) said

the white right umbrella group

was deeply divided after one of

its relatively moderate leaders,

General Constand Viljoen,

registered for the poll Friday night.

A full meeting of the AVF leadership Saturday refuted Gen. Viljoen's apparently unilateral move and ordered that the registration be withdrawn.

An AVF source who did not want to be identified said Gen. Viljoen, who had described the registration as a way of keeping the white right's options open, was sharply criticised at the closed-door meeting Saturday.

Newspapers have reported that Gen. Viljoen, who has had several meetings with African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, has been the target of death threats from radical AVF members who accuse him of being a traitor and carry...

"Like the IFP, the right-wing parties have only one choice: They can fight the election... or they can slip — peacefully or violently — into oblivion," the paper said.

Mr. Mandala held the door open to recalcitrant whites Sunday, saying there was still time for right-wing parties to register for South Africa's first all-race election.

Meanwhile, at least 11 blacks were killed when attackers raided an African National Congress aligned section of a black squatter settlement near South Africa's port city of Durban, police said Sunday.

A spokesman said a group of 20 attackers, armed with AK-47 assault rifles and shotguns, raided the ANC section of the Bhambayi, squatter settlement late Saturday and set fire to about 20 shacks.

Police, he added, had not established a motive for the raid.

Fighting in Bhambayi between ANC supporters and rivals in the Inkatha Freedom Party has claimed around 200 lives in the past year.

His ministers have been touring the homeland — divided into seven separate lands — to try to quell a wave of strikes by homeland civil servants concerned at their future after the election.

White House to reshape health reform debate

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration is seeking to reshape the health care

reform debate to focus on what is at stake for individuals after recent polls showed Americans growing increasingly wary of the president's plan.

"Fulfillment of all agreements, including agreements on nuclear commitments, is possible only if the economy works," he told Commonwealth Television during the Washington visit.

"If tomorrow factories come to a halt in Ukraine, and this is a reality, there is no gas, what carrying out of commitments can be spoken of?"

"Ukraine will fulfil its nuclear commitment," Mr. Kravchuk told a news conference in Washington before Gazprom announced its latest cuts.

The three-way disarmament agreement called for Ukraine to transfer at least 200 nuclear warheads to Russia within 11 months and turn over the rest of its nuclear stockpile "in the shortest possible time."

In addition, Ukraine's 176 SS-24 missiles — the most dangerous in its arsenal — should be deactivated within 10 months by handing their warheads removed.

To begin the process of compensating Ukraine for giving up its weapons, Russia was to provide Ukraine within the same period with fuel assemblies for nuclear power stations containing 100 tonnes of low-enriched uranium.

Ukrainian power stations are suffering acute shortages of fuel and, if Russia cuts gas supplies, the republic's fragile economy could grind to a halt.

"We are cutting gas supplies to Ukraine by another 80 million cubic metres a day. This will be done gradually... I don't know when it will be completed, by tomorrow [Sunday] morning or whenever," a Gazprom official said.

Gazprom has said it will keep up shipments to Ukraine that are used as payment for pipeline transit to customers in Western Europe.

tion of the election at the end of April.

The Alliance said it refused to legitimise South Africa's "faltering" new interim constitution until Zulus and right-wing Afrikaners were assured of virtual self-rule.

But Inkatha broke ranks Friday by registering for the election hours ahead of the midnight deadline. It hedged the move with conditions, including foreign mediation on constitutional amendments and a new elections timetable.

Mr. Schrire said that even if Inkatha did not actually take part in the poll, the possibility of a unified, coherent anti-election stance by conservatives had been badly damaged.

"De Klerk's position has been strengthened," he said.

Mr. Schrire said the AVF old-guard, including co-leader Fendi Hartzenberg, could be expected to stand on their anti-election principles but younger members might rebel to avoid ending up in the political wilderness.

"Despite all the huffing and puffing now, there could be a major realignment after the election," he said.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said the ANC decision

Saturday was short-sighted in terms of the future of South Africa and of the movement itself.

"We hope some members

will take part in the election regardless," he said.

Pressure is also building on Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope, who is due to decide whether to register for the poll at a cabinet meeting Monday.

His ministers have been touring the homeland — divided into seven separate lands — to try to quell a wave of strikes by homeland civil servants concerned at their future after the election.

sustain a long-term lobbying campaign for the plan.

"We have foolishly let ourselves be sucked into all of these side battles," the aide said. "It has impaired our ability, therefore, to cut through with the basic message of this is what the plan is, this is how it works for you."

Democrats have grumbled privately that the White House wasted precious time by delaying release of its health care plan last year and failing to

be highly effective.

Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) ads that use the fictional characters Harry and Louise to raise concern about Mr. Clinton's reform plan apparently have

been highly effective.

Some of the recent detainees, including Wang Dan and China's most famous dissident, Wei Jingsheng, were let go after about 24 hours. Others have yet to be released.

Xinhua News Agency said in a brief report Sunday that Mr. Wei had been detained because he violated his parole, although it did not state the specific allegation.

Mr. Wei has continued to press for democracy in China since his release in September after more than 14 years in prison. His essays have been published abroad and he has spoken with foreign journalists and the top U.S. human rights envoy.

On Sunday, at least 16 uniformed police and plainclothesmen were stationed outside the apartment complex where Mr. Wei keeps his office, refusing to allow foreign reporters inside.

A prominent Chinese dissident detained by police for four days said Sunday he had been warned to behave during this week's crucial visit of the U.S. secretary of state.

Qian Yumin, 34, a signatory of a "peace charter" asking for moves towards democracy, said police attached to the Railway Ministry, his employer, held him from Wednesday until Saturday

to determine how long Mr. Zhai might remain in detention.

Mr. Christopher, concerned

that the police appeared

concerned about the dissidents whose whereabouts at least to us are unknown. We're asking for explanations about them,"

Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher, touring a centre where the remains of U.S. servicemen missing from the Vietnam War are identified, said Saturday he hoped to visit Vietnam but had no time in his current Asian tour.

Son found living with mother's body

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An elderly woman lay dead on her living room couch for as long as seven years while her son continued to live in the house. Georgia Farrell probably died in 1987 at age 88. Her mummified body wasn't discovered until Friday, when neighbours went to check on her son, Robert Farrell. "She was laying there like she was watching TV, with her head on the pillow," said Ada County Coroner Erwin Sonnenberg. "It appears she died of natural causes, but we're going to do further investigation." Mr. Farrell, who is in his 60s, was taken to the psychiatric unit of St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Centre for evaluation. Robert McLean, a retired physician who lives in the condominium complex, said another neighbour asked him to check on Mr. Farrell. The neighbour said he saw Mr. Farrell in bed and couldn't get him to answer the doorbell. They entered through an unlocked front door and noticed the body when Mr. Farrell asked them for some water. "Here was this dead woman lying in this dark room," said Dr. McLean, who called police. "Obviously she had been dead a long time."

Chefs choice turns out to be live grenade

OPORTO, Portugal (AP) — Too small... too soft... just right, thought a fry cook in northern Portugal before realising the big, beefy spud he'd pulled from a sack of potatoes was a live hand grenade. Only knew and the cook's light touch kept the pin intact when the explosive was hauled out in the crowded cafe's kitchen, said an Oporto bomb squad officer who later detonated the pseudo-spud. The grenade was aged and crusted with soil but otherwise ready to blow, said the officer, who refused identification in accordance with department policy. Police have ruled out foul play. Their theory is the grenade was inadvertently plowed up and sacked in southern France, where the potatoes were from.

Biggest gay festival steps out

SYDNEY (AP) — Loud and lewd, ribald and rib-tickling, the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade coursed through Sydney's streets Saturday night, drawing a record crowd of more than 500,000 spectators. Religious opponents rallied nearby, denouncing the event as an example of what happens "when the wicked seize a city." Leading the processions of more than 10,000 marchers were the "Dykes On Bikes," a bevy of leather-clad lesbians riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles in a swipe at the macho man biker culture.

Right behind them were the Spokes, a bicycile club of homosexual men wearing G-strings, pink balloons tethered to their handlebars. Egyptian motifs followed, with slaves chained together at the neck towing a huge float displaying a kangaroo sphinx with breasts and testicles.

Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) ads that use the fictional characters Harry and Louise to raise concern about Mr. Clinton's reform plan apparently have been highly effective.

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Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA) ads that use the fictional characters Harry and Louise to raise

Manning sparks flying Hawks past Pacers

ATLANTA (R) — Danny Manning continued to pay quick dividends for Atlanta as he rose to the occasion on both ends of the court in the final seconds to lift the Hawks to a 90-88 win over the red-hot Indiana Pacers Saturday.

Manning hit a driving layup with 7.3 seconds to score the final points of the game as the Hawks registered their sixth straight victory and fifth since acquiring him in a trade for long-time Atlanta superstar Dominique Wilkins.

Manning, who had 17 points, 12 rebounds, six steals and three blocks, sealed the win with a vicious rejection of a layup try by Byron Scott, as time expired.

Reggie Miller scored 10 points, 12 rebounds, six steals and three blocks, sealed the win with a vicious rejection of a layup try by Byron Scott, as time expired.

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After Indiana took a 51-39 halftime lead, the Hawks opened the third quarter with a 21-8 burst for a lead. Willis scored eight points and Manning added seven in the surge.

The game seesawed back and forth until a dunk by Indiana's Dale Davis with 10.9 seconds left knotted it at 88-88 and set the stage for Manning's late-game heroics.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp scored 14 of his 25 points in the pivotal third quarter as the Supersonics pulled away for a 114-98 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Seattle, which trailed 59-55 at the half, outscored the Kings 34-19 in the third quarter and never looked back.

Kendall Gill added 21 points for the Sonics, who have won four straight and improved their league-best record to 41-14. Kemp, who was 10-of-16 from the field, also had 14 rebounds.

Spud Webb scored 21 points for Sacramento, who made 61 per cent of their shots in the first half, but scored only 39 points in the second half.

At Golden State, Latrell Sprewell scored 12 of his 21 points in a third quarter run as the Warriors sent the Charlotte Hornets to their eighth successive defeat 129-112.

Jeff Grayer added a season-high 20 points for the Warriors, who have won three in a row.

Dell Curry scored 21 points to pace the Hornets, who have lost 16 of their last 17 games. After Golden State took a 69-57 lead at the half, Charlotte closed to 76-71 with 6:47 remaining in the third on a slam dunk by Kenny Gattison. The warriors then went on a 20-6 burst to close out the period.

In Milwaukee, Erick Murdock scored 28 points and the Milwaukee Bucks the Detroit

Pistons without a field goal for a five-minute stretch in the fourth quarter on the way to a 117-108 triumph.

Joe Dumars matched a season-high with 42 points for the Pistons, who dropped their sixth straight. Vin Baker scored 24 points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Bucks.

After falling back early, Detroit pulled even after three quarters and led 94-92 with 9:05 left. Milwaukee's defense stiffened, though, and the Bucks replied with a 12-2 spurt.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 30 points, including four during a 9-0 run to open the second half, as the Rockets ripped the reeling Los Angeles Clippers 124-107.

Kenny Smith added 24 points on 10-of-13 shooting for Houston, winners of five of their last seven games.

Dominique Wilkins scored 20 points, on just 9-of-23 from the field, and Charles Outlaw had 17 to lead the Clippers, who played without Ron Harper and Loy Vaught because of injuries and lost for the ninth time in 11 games.

Houston, Midwest leaders, improved to 23-4 at home.

In Dallas, Karl Malone had 34 points and 13 rebounds, and Jeff Humphries scored 11 of his 15 points in the decisive third quarter as the Utah Jazz defeated the Mavericks 103-90.

Jeff Hornacek added 17 points for the Jazz, who ran their season-high winning streak to eight games. Rookie Jamal Mashburn scored 22 for the Mavericks.

Dallas was within two, 66-64, with 4:34 left in the third, but the Jazz closed out the quarter with an 18-8 run.

Utah improved to 9-1 since the All-Star break.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 32 points and Rony Seikaly added 22 as the sizzling Heat crushed the struggling Philadelphia 76ers 120-83 for their seventh win in a row.

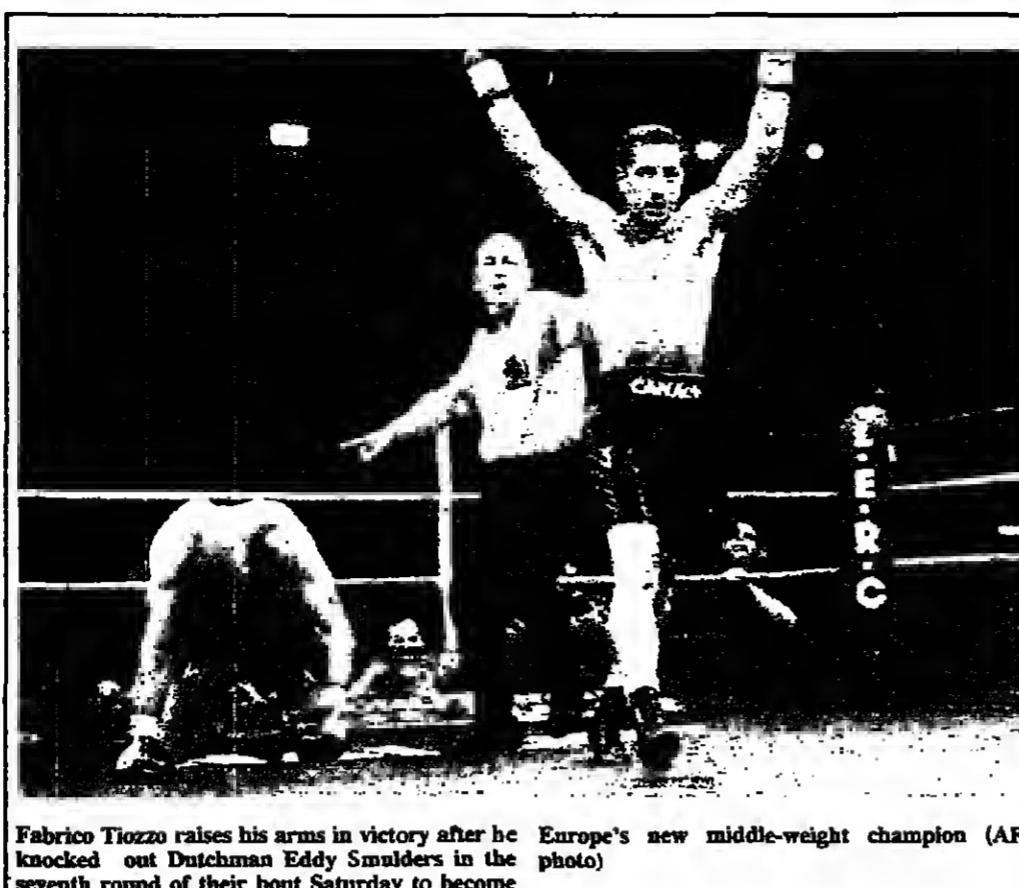
Miami, coming off a 5-0 road trip, never trailed in handing the Sixers their 12th consecutive defeat. The slide is the club's longest since the 1972-73 campaign, when the Sixers won just nine games, the worst season in league history.

Jeff Malone scored 21 points to lead Philadelphia.

Rice scored 12 of his points in the fourth quarter when Miami outscored Philadelphia 36-18.

In Washington, Michael Adams scored 17 of his 29 points in the first quarter, and the Bullets built a 14-point halftime lead and held on to defeat the Los Angeles Lakers 124-118.

Tom Gugliotta and Don Maclean each had 25 for the Bullets, who beat Los Angeles for the first time in four tries at home dating back to December 1989.



Fabricio Tiozzo raises his arms in victory after he Europe's new middle-weight champion (AFP knocked out Dutchman Eddy Smulders in the photo)

Di Centa captures 30-km race at Lahti ski games

LAHTI, Finland (AP) — Leading from start to finish, Manuela Di Centa of Italy won the 30-kilometre freestyle World Cup race Sunday, beating her old rival Lyubov Egorova of Russia by more than a minute.

Di Centa finished the cross-country course in one hour, 22 minutes and 50.5 seconds. The top placing matched Di Centa's and Egorova's finish in the 30k at the Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway.

Now they will battle for the overall World Cup title in two shorter races, a 10k freestyle in Falun, Sweden, next weekend, and a freestyle 5k in Thunder Bay, Canada, in two weeks.

Di Centa, with 626 points, is

only fourteen shy of the leading Egorova. But that difference can easily be made up. One hundred points are awarded to a race winner, while 80 goes to second place and 60 for third.

Sunday's race was dominated by Italy and Russia. Stefano Belmondo was third, beaten by almost two minutes, and Russians Nina Gavriluk and Svetlana Nageyina took fourth and fifth. Sixth place went to Antonina Ordina, a Russian-born skier who now represents Sweden.

Another Russian, Yelena Valbe, who had faint hopes of challenging for World Cup honours, skied strongly up to the halfway point — being

second at 12 kilometres — but faded badly. She dropped from sixth to 13th during the last five kilometres.

In other events, the large hill (K-120) World Cup ski jumping competition was cancelled because of high swirling winds.

The tricky winds even caused a top jumper — Germany's Jens Weissflog — to fall in the team competition Saturday night. Earlier Saturday, Weissflog convincingly won the normal hill (K-90) competition.

The men's cross country World Cup title was decided Saturday when Vladimir Smirnov of Kazakhstan won the 15k freestyle, beating Norway's Bjorn Dahl.

Sydney Olympics should not include golf- activists

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Environmental activists fighting to ensure golf is not included in the Sydney Olympics in 2000 Saturday sent the first batch of written protests to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Five hundred signatures against the proposed inclusion of golf in the games were sent to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch by the Global Anti-Golf Movement (GAGM).

The Malaysian Chapter of Friends of the Earth (SAM) environment group is coordinating the worldwide signature campaign, which was launched last December following moves by the IOC to make golf an Olympic event.

"Since we started compiling information on problems related to golf courses and resorts, we have been shocked by the scale of the devastation," said GAGM coordinator Gen Morita.

"To make golf an Olympic sport would amount to the IOC endorsing an activity which destroys the environment and brings suffering to local people," he said in a statement.

He said that in a separate letter to Samaranch, the group had highlighted cases where the building of golf courses had polluted water and created water shortages, evicted local communities and encouraged "dubious land speculation."

The GAGM was founded by

ties of water needed to maintain the lush greens and artificial water bodies," he said.

"...Malaysia declared last December that there were far too many golf courses in the country, and said it would no longer compromise on the stringent regulations governing the golf course in west Java."

Monta said Indonesia temporarily banned new golf courses after students, environmentalists and farmers protested against the conversion of agricultural land into a golf course in west Java.

"In Thailand, which has a severe water shortage, public opinion has turned against golf courses due to the huge quantities

Sampras, Korda reach final of Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — World number one Pete Sampras showed that he can produce great shots in tight spots when he beat third seed Stefan Edberg Saturday to reach the final of the \$1.72 million Champions Cup tennis tournament.

It almost always comes down to one or two points," said Sampras, who levelled his record against Edberg to 5-5 with the 6-3 3-6 6-4 victory in one hour and 55 minutes.

In Sunday's final, Sampras will face 10th-seeded Czech Petr Korda, who needed just 66 minutes to dispose of unseeded American Aaron Krickstein 6-4 6-4.

The 14th-ranked Korda used his powerful, yet crafty left-handed serve to keep the 38th-ranked Krickstein off balance. Korda also successfully avoided long baseline rallies

that would have favoured the American.

Sampras scored the lone service break of the final set in the last game to clinch victory. On his second match point, Sampras hit a forehand return winner off an Edberg first serve.

Neither Edberg nor Sampras had dropped a set on the way to the semifinals and Saturday each of the tight sets was determined by a single break at the two produced high quality tennis from the service line.

"To be honest, I was having a tough time with his serve, especially his second serve," admitted Sampras, the reigning Wimbledon, U.S. Open and Australian Open champion.

"I just went after those returns in the last game and that made the difference," added Sampras, who delivered 13 aces in the match.

Sampras faced just one break point in the entire third set and saved it in typically aggressive fashion. He followed his serve to the net and hit a sharply angled volley that forced Edberg to hit a defensive lob long.

"He took his chances when he got them in that last game and when I had a chance to break him in the third set I didn't take it," said Edberg, a former number one and Wimbledon champion.

"You don't get many chances against Pete, so you've got to take them when they're there," added the fourth-ranked Swede.

"That's why he's number one, because he makes you play the big points."

Korda broke service in the third game of each set against Krickstein — the only breaks of their 66-minute match.

Graf and Sanchez Vicario reach Florida Slims final

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Steffi Graf was tested Saturday for the first time this year and still has yet to drop a set after fighting off Helena Sukova in the 36th-ranked World Cup ski jumping competition was cancelled because of high swirling winds.

The tricky winds even caused a top jumper — Germany's Jens Weissflog — to fall in the team competition Saturday night. Earlier Saturday, Weissflog convincingly won the normal hill (K-90) competition.

The men's cross country World Cup title was decided Saturday when Vladimir Smirnov of Kazakhstan won the 15k freestyle, beating Norway's Bjorn Dahl.

xia Sanchez Vicario.

The second-ranked Spaniard earned her second shot of the year at Graf with a 6-2 6-3 victory over 14th-seeded American Chanda Rubin.

Sanchez's last showdown

with Graf resulted in a crushing 6-0 6-2 defeat in the Australian open final in January.

"She played unbelievably that day. I've never seen her play as good as that day," said Sanchez, who has won nine of 29 past meetings with the German star.

Graf continued her personal dominance of Sukova by raising her record against the Czech serve and volleyer to

21-1. Graf's only loss came in their very first meeting in 1983.

Sukova, playing an aggressive game and taking advantage of Graf's uneven play from the service line, briefly led each set.

But Sukova's risk-taking and eight double faults — including two in the final game — caused her demise. She neutralised 30 winners with 33 unforced errors in the one hour and 22 minute rematch of last year's U.S. Open final.

"The first set surprised me how strong her serve and volleys were. Her volleys were very good in the first set," said Graf, who has not lost a match since last November.

Dawes and Scherbo triumph in Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Olympians Dominique Dawes and Vitaly Scherbo tuned up for the 1994 World Gymnastics Championships with convincing victories Saturday in McDonald's American Cup.

Dawes, 17, of Silver Spring, Md., won the women's two-day optional all-around competition with a score of 39.387 points.

"I felt I did the best on the floor exercise," said Dawes, who energized the crowd of 7,412 with a score of 9.85 on the floor in her final event of the day. "That's a new routine for me, and I usually don't smile during that routine."

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SPOT THE WINNING LINE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	EAST
J 10 J 9 8 6 K Q 9 7 6 6 3	B 8 4 3 2 Q K 10 7 4 P Q 5 3 2
WEST	SOUTH
Q 9 7 6 5 K 10 9 P 3 2 + 10 9	A 2 K A 3 2 J 10 8 + A Q J 5, 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♦

Only the four top cards in a suit are assigned a value by the point count. Yet it is often the rank of the spot cards in a suit that determines whether a contract succeeds or fails. Here is a beautiful example of what we mean.

South's auction showed a balanced hand of about 19 points. With 7 points in high cards and a fair five-card suit, North had more than enough to accept.

Despite the double stopper in the suit, spades were declarer's weak-

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ROUND TRIP TO HEAVEN

Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

CONCORD '1'
The Fugitive
Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD '2'
Filofax
Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq keeps up blasts at Clinton

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq will not sit idly by if U.S. President Bill Clinton succeeds in convincing the U.N. Security Council to maintain the tough Gulf war embargo on the country, the government newspaper said on Sunday. "If the sanctions are renewed this means that Washington is embarking on the implementation of the most dangerous chapter in its great conspiracy against Iraq," Al Jumhoriyah said. "This Iraq shall never accept and it will be impossible for it to stand hands folded and its people suffer under the load of the embargo and its destructive results," it added. Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz warned Mr. Clinton on Friday that the U.S. would be made to pay for its insistence on maintaining the U.N. embargo against Iraq. Mr. Clinton on Thursday had said the United States would continue to apply economic sanctions against Iraq because of Baghdad's defiance of United Nations resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war.

E. German files spurred Ames probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Material from former East German intelligence files spurred creation of a joint Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigation three years ago that ultimately led to the arrest of CIA official Aldrich H. Ames on spying charges, the Washington Post reported. The paper reported in Sunday's editions that some counterintelligence officials suspected as early as 1985 that U.S. spy operations had been compromised, but separate investigations languished for years until 1991 when the joint operation was forced. Citing unidentified official familiar with the Ames investigation, the Post said East German files revealed that all the spies the United States thought it had recruited in the Stasi intelligence service actually were double agents. The paper said that shook the CIA up enough to result in it agreeing to work with the FBI on an investigation. Investigators went on to draw up a list of approximately 200 people who had known the identities of the Stasi agents and also had known of earlier failed operations against the Soviet Union. Mr. Ames was among the 200 and by May 1993 had become the focus of an investigation the FBI called "Nightmover." He was arrested Feb. 21 because of concerns he might flee the country.

Kurdish-linked violence kills 20 in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — At least 20 people including 16 rebel Kurds and four soldiers, were killed in clashes in snow-blanketed eastern Turkey, Anatolia news agency reported Sunday. Anatolia, quoting provincial authorities, said soldiers killed 11 guerrillas of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) on a plateau of Erzurum province on Sunday after they tried to ambush the troops, on a week-long military operation. Provincial Governor Oguz Berberoglu said up to two metres of snow covered the area. He said guerrillas had buried their dead in the snow and relieved the bodies of another 10 to 15 rebels would be found when the snow melted. "The escape route has been sealed off," Mr. Berberoglu said. Five PKK men and four soldiers were killed in clashes on the slopes of the Mount Ararat, in the eastern province of Agri, Anatolia said. It said six soldiers were wounded. It did not say when the incidents took place.

Tunisia election campaigning starts

TUNIS (R) — Campaigning for Tunisia's presidential and parliamentary elections on March 20 started on Sunday. President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali is standing unopposed. Leaders of all opposition parties and candidates for the legislative poll voiced support for Mr. Ben Ali's bid for a second five-year term at a Tunis rally chaired by the president. Mr. Ben Ali, prime minister at the time, took power in November 1987 by having veteran President Habib Bourguiba officially declared senile and unfit to rule. He was reelected in 1989 on the platform of his ruling Rassemblement Constitutionnel Democratique (RCD). Opposition parties are certain to enter parliament for the first time since Tunisia's independence in 1956 thanks to an amendment to the electoral law. But the banned fundamentalist movement, Al Nahda, which presented "independent" candidates in 1989 is not contesting this time. The movement has gone underground after the jailing or flight into exile of hundreds of its leaders over the past three years.

Top Somali warlord spurns council offer

MOGADISHU (R) — A coalition headed by top Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed rejected on Sunday an offer to join an all-party council agreed in Cairo to restore peace. "Everything conducted outside Somalia is only a way of creating trouble, a way of delaying a solution to Somalia's problems," said Issa Mohammad, spokesman for General Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA). "No one man can say: 'I offer this,' no one has the power to say: 'you take this and I take that.' Together we have to sit down and decide," Mr. Issa added. Leaders of 12 Somali factions meeting in Cairo said in a statement that they had agreed to set up an all-party salvation council in a move to restore peace in the broken country (see page 2).

Shevardnadze starts tour in Prague

PRAGUE (AP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, en route to Washington, Sunday paid a brief visit to Prague to drum up support for his peace plans in the forthcoming U.N. Security Council talks. Mr. Shevardnadze met with President Vaclav Havel for an hour of talks characterised by the president as "very interesting and very intense." The Czech Republic is a non-permanent member of the Security Council, which is scheduled to discuss U.N. peace activities in Georgia on Wednesday. Mr. Shevardnadze was on his way to the United States for talks with President Bill Clinton, as well as, international bankers in hopes of getting financial aid for his country, which has been wracked by civil war. "I seek support for a just solution, and my emphasis is on 'just,'" Mr. Shevardnadze said about the prospect for peace in Georgia, which lost the western province of Abkhazia to separatists last year. Mr. Havel said the Czechs would support any solution that would work towards peace in Georgia.

Arafat sees mediators in Cairo

(Continued from page 1) Clinton administration to cut off contributions from Americans to radical settler groups.

"The money is coming from (the New York borough of) Brooklyn. We raised the question, but we can't do more than that," he said.

Diplomats in Cairo say they are confident the talks will eventually resume but it is not yet clear how the mediators will find a compromise between the PLO and Israeli positions.

In Oslo, chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said once the PLO-Israeli talks resume, a breakthrough on agreement for Israeli troop withdrawal from parts of the occupied territories is two weeks away.

"If we address the security situation as soon as we get back to the table, we should be

King briefed on AL al Bait University

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received at the Royal Court members of the Royal Commission for AL al Bait University and thanked them for their efforts to establish the university.

Dr. Bakheit voiced appreciation for King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for the support extended to the commission.

He also thanked the Armed Forces and other Jordanian universities which have contributed to the AL al Bait establishment process.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sbari Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's advisors.



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets with members of a committee charged with establishing AL al Bait University (Petra photo)

Greek actress and culture minister Mercouri dies at 71

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Melina Mercouri, the actress who gained fame in the film "Never on Sunday" and later used her position as culture minister of Greece to fight for the return of ancient artifacts, died Sunday. She was 71.

Mercouri died at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre at 8:50 a.m. (1350 GMT) of complications from lung cancer, said hospital spokeswoman Pat Tun.

After her acting career, Mercouri turned to politics. She was the first woman ever to hold a senior cabinet post in Greece.

Mercouri was culture minister under three Socialist governments, from 1981 to 1989, and was appointed to post again in October when Andreas Papandreou's Socialists returned to power after four years in the opposition.

Her first eight years as culture minister were defined by an international crusade to bring the Elgin marbles back to Greece. The priceless marble statue was removed from the Parthenon in Athens by Scottish antiquarian Thomas Bruce, earl of Elgin, in the early 19th century and is the British Museum.

Although she suffered from lung cancer and underwent surgery after being hospitalised in New York on Feb. 3, Mercouri had repeatedly ignored doctors' advice to stop smoking. Her condition worsened Saturday.

Mercouri also led a failed campaign to promote Greece as host for the Olympic Games in 1996, the centenary of the modern games, which were revived in Athens in 1896.

Mercouri always projected a strong pride in her homeland and heritage. "If I did not love Greece so much I would be lazy, egocentric and a coward," she said in an interview.

A tall, natural blonde with green eyes, Mercouri was born



Melina Mercouri (1922-94)

to a prominent political family on October 18, 1925.

She trained at the Athens drama school and her film career took off in 1955 when she won the best actress award at the Cannes Film Festival for her role in "Stella."

It was in Cannes that she met American film director Jules Dassin, who later directed her in "Never on Sunday" and married her in 1966.

Mercouri was nominated for an Academy Award for her role as a warm-hearted, carefree prostitute in the 1960 film.

She also had leading roles in more than 70 films and theatrical productions.

One New York critic wrote: "Mercouri has the sunbleached good looks of Ingrid Bergman, the glamour of Lauren Bacall and the passion of Anna Magnani."

Her films and songs were banned by the military junta which seized powers and ruled Greece from 1967 to 1974 and a warrant was issued for her arrest.

Her stinging denunciation of the junta in speeches and demonstrations around the world cost Mercouri her citizenship. But it was restored after the dictatorship fell.

It was during this period that she allied herself with the Panhellenic Socialist Movement of Mr. Papandreou.

Sorrow over her death was expressed by parties across the political spectrum.

The leader of the coalition of the left and progress, Nikos Konstantopoulos, said: "Melina of democracy, Melina of Greece is no longer with us. Together with all Greeks, with inexpressible grief, we mourn a great loss for our country."

Miltiades Evert, leader of the main opposition Conservative Party, said simply: "Greeks will never forget Melina Mercouri."

Funeral services would be held on Thursday and Mercouri would be buried in her family's vault at Athens' first cemetery.

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